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flexible endoscope, the operating capsule being sized so that, when in an operative position entirely located within a body lumen adjacent to a selected portion of tissue to be resected structural integrity of luminal tissue is maintained, the operating capsule including a suturing assembly and defining a cutting zone adjacent to the suturing assembly; and

a tissue grabber drawing the selected portion of tissue into the cutting zone, wherein the suturing assembly fastens together portions of tissue adjacent to the selected portion of tissue.

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44. (Amended) A system for resecting tissue from within a body lumen, comprising:

a flexible endoscope;

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an operating head including a coupling structure for selectively coupling to the endoscope, the operating head including an anvil and a stapling mechanism moveable with respect to one another between a closed position in which the anvil and the stapling mechanism are adjacent to one another and a tissue receiving position in which the anvil is separated from the stapling mechanism, the operating head being sized so that, when in an operative position entirely located within a body lumen, structural integrity of luminal tissue is maintained;

a flexible sheath extending from a proximal end of the operating head so that, when the operating head is in an operative position within a body lumen, a proximal end of the flexible sheath extends out of the body lumen; and

a control handle coupled to the proximal end of the flexible sheath.

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49. (Amended) A method for resecting tissue from within a body lumen, comprising the steps of:

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a. inserting an operating head coupled to a flexible endoscope into a body lumen via a naturally occurring body orifice, wherein the operating head includes an anvil and a stapling mechanism;

b. advancing the operating head over the endoscope within the body lumen to a desired position relative to a selected portion of tissue to be resected, wherein, when in the desired position, the entire operating head is received within the body lumen;